

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

By The Star City Staff

Otepka, Otto
SerVaas, Beurt R.
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Private Eye Firm, Otepka Case Linked

International Investigators Inc., the private detective agency which figures in the Marion County Grand Jury investigation of alleged illegal wiretapping, may have been involved in a similar but much more celebrated case—the Otto Otepka affair.

Otepka, you will recall, was the chief of the division of evaluation in the State Department's security office who was fired in 1963 for allegedly leaking secrets to a Senate subcommittee.

There was a big and prolonged controversy over the incident, and Otepka received partial exoneration and finally, years later, was appointed to a government board by President Richard M. Nixon.

Part of the controversy involved the fact that Otepka's telephone was bugged, supposedly because he opposed lenient policies of his bosses toward potential security risks.

So who bugged the phone? International Investigators, it is alleged by several sources. The agency at the time was operated by former FBI agents with CIA connections.



OTTO OTEPKA

C. TIM WILCOX, who runs the detective outfit now, says he found no old files involving Otepka but was asked by certain parties to see if he could find any old material showing International Investigators had done wiretapping work on Teamsters' boss Jimmy Hoffa for Robert F. Kennedy when Kennedy was attorney general.

The allegation was that International Investigators had tapped Hoffa's phones for Kennedy, and Teamsters officials wanted the results to get Hoffa's conviction overturned, say Wilcox.

No such files ever were found, Wilcox added, but one reportedly was worth \$1 million if it ever surfaced.

An interesting twist: Beurt R. SerVaas, the local publisher, businessman and Republican button-pusher, had financial control of International Investigators for a brief period—long after the Otepka and Hoffa matters.

But SerVaas says that several years after World War II, he was in charge of the CIA's "overt activities" office in Indianapolis.

A CIA spokesman said SerVaas' name was unfamiliar to the agency.

Rocky, have you tuned in yet?